

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 8. 1706.

I Am now upon the Question of reducing the *Scots* by Force, I shall never be found lessening the Valour of our People, or the Power of our Nation, *nor is there any occasion for it here*; We are without doubt able to reduce the *Scots* by Force, we are able to conquer them by Arms, they will allow it *in general*, both as to Numbers, but especially as to Strength of Money. As for *meer abstracted Fighting*, I know not what to say, but I believe, if the great *Gustavus Adolphus* was alive, *he would make a Question of it*;—who had such an Opinion of the *Scots*, that I have it by me under the Hand of a Gentleman of Quality, who heard him say, That if he could have a Supply of 40000 *Scots* joyn'd to his *Finlanders*, who were Horse, he thought he could conquer all the World.

It was a great Honour to the *Scots* Nation to have such a thing said of them by such a Man, who was perhaps the best Judge of great Actions of any Man in his Days, and we all know, the *Scots* in his Service did most unaccountable Actions to merit his good Opinion, and which made them terrible to the World at that Time.

But, Gentlemen, the Way of fighting in the World is very much alter'd; and the longest Purse has now so much more Influence in Matters of War than the longest Sword, that I believe, the *Scots* themselves will own, they are no Match for us that Way.

We will therefore no more debate that Point, but suppose we are able to reduce the *Scots* by Force, if we please, whether it be so or no——But still the Subject
of

of a War is so strangely hamper'd with the Circumstances of both Nations, that it cannot happen but to our mutual Loss and Destruction, and that more than in other Cases of War, or in other Nations; and of this I shall speak at large.

Those Gentlemen that are forward to talk of a War with Scotland, as I have already noted, are such, as either know not what belongs to such a War, or such, as if ever it should happen, will be sure to be foremost among those that stay at home; and therefore in my speaking to them, let them be of which Nation they will, I shall advance some Paradoxes upon this Head, which when they can answer, and prove them not to reach the Case, I shall lay down the Cudgels; in the mean time recommending them to the Consideration of those People, who talk with so much Assurance on the Article of War.

Supposing the present happy Temper of both Nations towards a Union, should, to all our Misfortunes, go off, and end; as to me it would seem inevitably necessary in a bloody War between the Nations; and if ever it be a War, it will be bloody enough.

1. If the Scots should beat you, invade Northumberland, pierce even into Yorkshire, rout your Forces, destroy the Country, and the like, they would be undone.

2. If you invade Scotland, beat their Armies, traverse the Country, and driving the Scots to their Inaccessibilities and Retreats, make what you call a Conquest, you are undone.

3. Every Victory you gain over them in the Field, you are beaten; the Scots are Conquerors by it, and you Losers.

4. If you will keep an Army upon them, to maintain your Conquest, you make them, and they shall thank you.

5. At the End of every War, they shall have the better of you, it shall cost you more to hold them, than to gain them, and more to lose them, than both.

There are more of these Paradoxes, which in Time, I may enter upon the Explication of; and which I doubt not, will be made plain to the Understandings of all those, that can view things with an impartial Judgment, and free from National Prejudices on

either side; by which it will appear, the Advantages of this Union will be greater to the English, than to the Scots.

To these let me add, if a Union happen, the Scots shall be so far from gaining to your Loss by your Trade, that you shall gain equally by theirs, and the more by your own; you shall drive their Trade to your Advantage, and to theirs also; they shall grow rich from their own Foundation, and in their Riches you shall increase.

If these things are true, then it remains to enquire, for what End some Gentlemen would have us fall out with the Scots, and the Reason is plain.

1. Negatively, not for the Sake of a War, for they will have no hand in the fighting Part, 'tis out of their Element; Fighting has never agreed with the Party, as appear'd (1.) in King James's Time, when, IF EVER, they would have stood by their Oaths, with which they deluded both him and themselves, as appear'd since on the Occasions of the French Fleet on our Coast; the King absent, and their Cause promising, and yet not a Soul of them durst stir in Behalf of their Cause.

(2.) Not for Fear of the real Advantages or Disadvantages of Trade, for 'tis evident, they are on the other side against them, and in all Cases rather sink our Trade and discourage it, than increase and support it.

(3.) Not in Spleen to the Scots as a Nation, for the Bent of their Warmth lyes another way; 'tis in Spleen to them, as a Presbyterian Nation.

2. But affirmatively, They are *ist.* against the thing UNION, as such the very Nature of it is fatal to them, it is contrary not to their Design only, but to their Temper; Peace is not in their Project, Union will no way do their Business, the Cause they carry on is inconsistent with it; and whenever Union between the two Kingdoms comes to pass, their Cause is undone.

2dly. Of all Unions, they hate a Scotch Union; because they have long devour'd that Nation in Prospect, and to unite with them now, goes so much against the Grain, that they can very ill brook the Disappointment, and this brings me to the Ecclesiastick Part of the Union.

And

And here I confess, there seems to lye some Paradoxical Contradictions, which I should be glad to see the Gentlemen on the other side explain; and which if they cannot, I may in time do it for them, being willing to oblige them in all things to the best of my Power.

First, How it is possible, they can propose a Conquest of *Scotland* as the shortest Way to Peace and Union?

Secondly, How a Union with *England* can endanger the Church of *England*, and the Kirk of *Scotland* both at the same time?

Thirdly, How a Union of *Scotland* will endanger the Succession of the House of

Hannover, and the House of *Perkin*, &c. both together?

When these things are made out, I confess, I shall be very much enlightened, and it will no longer seem so unreasonable a thing to me to oppose the Union, as now it appears; nor shall I be shy of telling my Mind on that Subject.

But since it is yet so much a Riddle, why this Union is oppos'd on either Hand; I cannot but think, 'tis absolutely necessary to enquire in some of our next, who are the People that oppose this blessed Conjunction, and as far as we can to examine the Reasons why; of which hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

I Congratulated my self very highly in my last Paper, and think, I have good Reason for it too, upon the Opportunity of my treating at once upon two such glorious Subjects, as Union at home, and Victory abroad, and made some small Excursions on the Connection of two such happy Circumstances.

Never was Author furnish'd with two such Funds of Matter for his Pen, Perswasion and Panegyrick fill up all our Discourses, and we have nothing to say every day, but to wish you Joy of new Victories, new Acquisitions, new Disasters to the Enemy—*Turin* reliev'd, and the *French* Army beaten? 'Tis more than we could almost have had the Face to have ask'd, if God Almighty had bid us carve for our selves.

To enter into the future Advantages of these Successes, is, what every body is forward enough to meddle with, and draw Crowds of Conjectures fill our Discourses: But shall I put you in Mind of some Advantages, which every body does not know of, and which are already understood by our Senses.

Let any Man, that asks what are we the better yet for all these Victories, step into the West Riding of *Yorkshire*, and there let him ask the Clothiers and Manufacturers, if any of them want Trade; let him enquire

if the Kersies of *Hallifax*, the Cloth, Bays, &c. of *Leeds*, *Huddersfield*, *Wakefield*, &c. are not risen 10 to 15 per Cent. by the universal Demand occasion'd by the Victory in *Flanders*: I know no better way to speak to the common Understandings of the People, than to come home to their own Doors, and let every Man feel the Effects of the Victory in his Pocket.

There's not a poor Country Clothier in those Parts, but can tell you there is something happen'd abroad, that has made them a brave Trade; he does not know what it is, but this he knows, that his Cloth sells well, and the Buyers call for it faster than it can be made, and this is enough to him, he finds Times are alter'd, he is sensible of that, tho' he knows nothing beyond his Loom and his fulling Mill.

Master, says an honest Countryman to me the other day, as I was riding along, there's brave News, they say, at London about Prince *Hougin*; they say, he has kill'd all the French, and they say, we shall have a main Trade, our Wool rises already upon it. Pray what is this Prince *Hougin*?

This is really a true Jest, and the honest Countryman that knew no more of *Turin*, than of grand *Cairo*, *Ramellies*, or *Ram Alley*, was all one to him; Victory, or no Victory, troubld not his Head any farther, than as he